

Abingdon Community Council Meeting
July 23, 2012

There were 5 members (C. David Copenhaver, Cynthia Hergenbahn, Earl Grey, Carlin Cook, Gregory Beaty) and 28 guests in attendance including: Lt. Dougherty (Harford County Sheriff's Office), Joe Woods (County Council), Mary Ann Lisanti (County Council), Susan K. McComas (Maryland House of Delegates District 35B), Andrew Tress (Aid to County Council President, Billy Boniface), Joe Cluster (Aid to County Councilman Joe Woods), Sallie K. Filkins (Executive Director for Center for the Arts), and Rebecca Jessop (Director of Special Events and Community Outreach)

The next meeting will be August 27, 2012 at 6:30 at the Abingdon Public Library.

- The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Cynthia Hergenbahn, Chairperson.
- Lt. Dougherty - Community Policing
- Report for sectors 30 and 40: robberies up by 33%, burglaries up by 69%, vehicle theft down slightly
- Sallie K. Filkins (Executive Director for Center for the Arts)
- Mission – to educate, present, and exhibit
 - Benefits – economic (usually 7:1 return; generated \$1Billion in MD), academic (students involved in the arts usually perform better academically), quality of life
 - The Center would act as a hub for the arts in the County
 - Emily Bayless Graham property was bequeathed to Harford County with certain conditions
 - Studies show Harford County has the demographics (population growth, income level, education level) to support a cultural arts center
 - Center has proposed 3 theaters (1200, 400, 100 seat capacities), galleries, and meeting spaces
 - Proposed revenue over the next few years \$7 -\$9 million
 - Cultural Center would sit on 41 acre parcel between MD 24 and Tollgate Road
 - Entrance/exit proposed to be on Tollgate Rd.
 - Proposed green roof over Center and parking area
 - 69 acre parcel of Graham estate between Rt. 924 and MD 24 must remain a passive park
 - Possible walking bridge over MD 24 to connect the park and Cultural Center sites
 - Committee needs a zoning change and hopes to have a conceptual design ready in the fall

June meeting minutes approved

Open Forum

- Cultural Arts Center
 - Audience expressed great interest in the Center
 - Expressed desire to have the walking bridge constructed
 - Pleased with the idea of a LEED certification
 - Councilman Woods expressed his concern about using County money for an elaborate project
- Walmart
 - Member of the audience brought a petition against the relocation to Plumtree and made it available to anyone who wanted to sign
 - Suggestion that residents against the relocation should write letters to the County Executive and to the Head of Planning and Zoning
 - ACC ask for show of hands for/against the relocation, it was unanimously against
- Facebook update – followers are growing
- eNews update – reminded people to sign up for the data base
- Councilman Joe Woods
 - Introduced his new Legislative Aid, Joe Cluster
 - Stated that the County Council cannot change zoning
- County Councilmen Dion Guthrie and Jim McMahon were out of town and unable to attend tonight's meeting
- Councilwoman Mary Ann Lisanti
- Asked for feedback on how to improve community input meetings

- Stated that charges have been filed against the peacock owner (community problem)
 - Suggested individuals make good requests for traffic study to address specific concerns and to make them cover a broad area
- Cynthia Hergenbahn to invite persons concerning Walmart project to August meeting
- Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm by Cynthia Hergenbahn, Chairperson

Minutes submitted by Donna Copenhaver